FILE: CONLIN

James W. Conlin
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August 31, 1985

Ans. Sept. 13
gave xerox to D. Delaney

Ms. Dorothy Clark
Vigo County's Official Historian
Tribune-Star Publishing Office
Terre Haute, Indiana.

Quite recently I was a paying guest in the Cumberland County Medical Center (Hospital) in Crossville, Tennessee. The first half of my stay was in the intensive care unit. When I was moved into another room the first thing that I noted on my bedside table was a news clipping. I also noted that it bore the heading, "Merom Festival Drew top names, Hordes of People. You would be able to realize the extent of mu surprise at the article being there and I have no idea how it got there.

You may perhaps wonder why a Tennessee patient would be interested in little old Meromon the banks of the Wabash River. In the firstplace I am a Hoosier transplanted to Pleasant Hill, Tennessee in 1961. We were enticed here by a new Nursing Home and a new retirement village. However I lived in Indiana for approximately 63 years.

On January 1, 1919 I enrolled as a college freshman in Union Christian College and was graduated from there in June 1922. That fall I began my career in the field of education in the Wasash Township, Mecca, Indiana. For 17 years I remained in that school as principal and the for 12 years was County Superintendent of Schools in Parke County.

In the meantime I took my Masters Degree at Indiana University in 1928. I taught one year in Shelburn; was for three years Superintendent of the Department of Education in the Indiana State Reformatory at Pendleton, Indiana, and was for two years was principal of the school in Mellott, Fountain County, Indiana. All told I was a school man in the Old Hoosier State for a total of 35 years.

It may be added that for the same length of time I was pastor of the Bee Ridge Christian Church which is about two and one-half miles west of the city of Brazil, Indiana.

In 1942 I was inducted into the Chaplains Corps of the Army and served for four years - half of the time in the United States and the other half of my time was spent in the European Theatre of Operations.

No doubt you are well acquainted with "The Sunshine Hour" radio program aired over station W B O W Terre Haute. For several years both before and after the WW my wife was a soloist with them and I was Chaplain and Secretary of the group.

And now as to the Chautauqua -- I attended the Merom Bluff programs in 1920. For sixteen weeks in 1929 and the same length of time in 1930 I was platform manager for the Old Alantic Circuit of the for the Redpath Chautauqua Association operating from the Kimball Piano Building in Chicago, Illinois. I believe that it was in the summers of 1933 and 1934 that I was platform manager for the Merom Bluff Chautauqua.

In 1942 I was elected a member of the Board of Trustees for Merom Institute but had to resign when I entered the Service as Chaplain.

Should you be in Merom and visit their museum at the old college you should see the copy of the "History of Union Christian College, 1859 - 1924, my Masters Thesis written for Indiana University. And nearby should be a copy of the History of Merom Bluff Chautauqua which I wrote for my own pleasure.

Pardon this type of letter. It is not written merely to make clear my interest in your article which I found in my hospital room in the hospital on the Cumberland Plateau in Central Tennessee.

I was born on November 13, 1898 near Greensburg, Indiana. You can know by this that I am no longer a child unless you might decide after reading this that I am in my SECOND CHILDHOOD.

Very truly yours,

James W. Conlin

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